

no more illusions

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FASCISTS AND RACISTS LOSE AT MSU

Statement from the Stop Spencer at MSU Coalition one month after they “*helped drive the Alt-Right off the streets and back onto the internet*”

EAST LANSING, MI

One month ago, on March 5th, 500 protesters from all walks of life – community members, college students, activists, university staff and faculty, and those defying categorization – converged on the MSU Pavilion to protect and defend our community from Neo-Nazi Spencer and the fascists that follow him. We came to show them that we are many and they are few, that they cannot continue to meet in public without resistance, that they and their racist and genocidal movement will NEVER win.

Together, we succeeded. We not only prevented the ENTIRETY of the Traditionalist Worker Party (which has since imploded) AND the Michigan and Illinois chapters of Patriot Front from even entering Spencer’s speech: our collective action scared Spencer so much that he cancelled the rest of his “college tour”.

We also know from leaked Discord chats that Patriot Front was planning some sort of masked street action for the night of March 5th – this never happened. They were so demoralized after the events of midday that they gave up their plans. Let’s not mince words: on March 5th, the MSU community and supporters from around the country laid the death blow to the already-dying current public formation of Nazi “Alt-Right” movement.

In addition to STOPPING their movement, we also succeeded in BUILDING ours. The mobilization on March 5th was a huge success for continuing to build community power against fascism and racism. What we did on March 5th we did together, strengthening a larger network of neighbors, workers, students, and activists.

Stop Spencer MSU built our coalition by organizing community meetings and discussions open to the public.



We know that all sorts of people are pissed off at the world we live in, at the society run by profit-hungry racists and abusers. So we accepted the challenge: in a town where there are almost zero confrontations on the street, we decided to organize a mass mobilization. And we wanted to do so without shying away from our politics.

We welcomed a diverse range of people with many different backgrounds and ideas. This was a sometimes messy, but always necessary process in order to build a movement that is truly of the people. The skills and resources that all of our coalition members contributed were invaluable to our success against Spencer and the rest of the Nazis. We are only as strong as the people who support us and make up our coalition, and March 5th showed that we are VERY strong.

We organized mass, community, accessible antifascism because it both makes us stronger in the streets and because it is a part of our larger mission to build the world we want to see – a world with collective

“In addition to stopping their movement, we also succeeded in building ours”

networks of care, solidarity, and struggle.

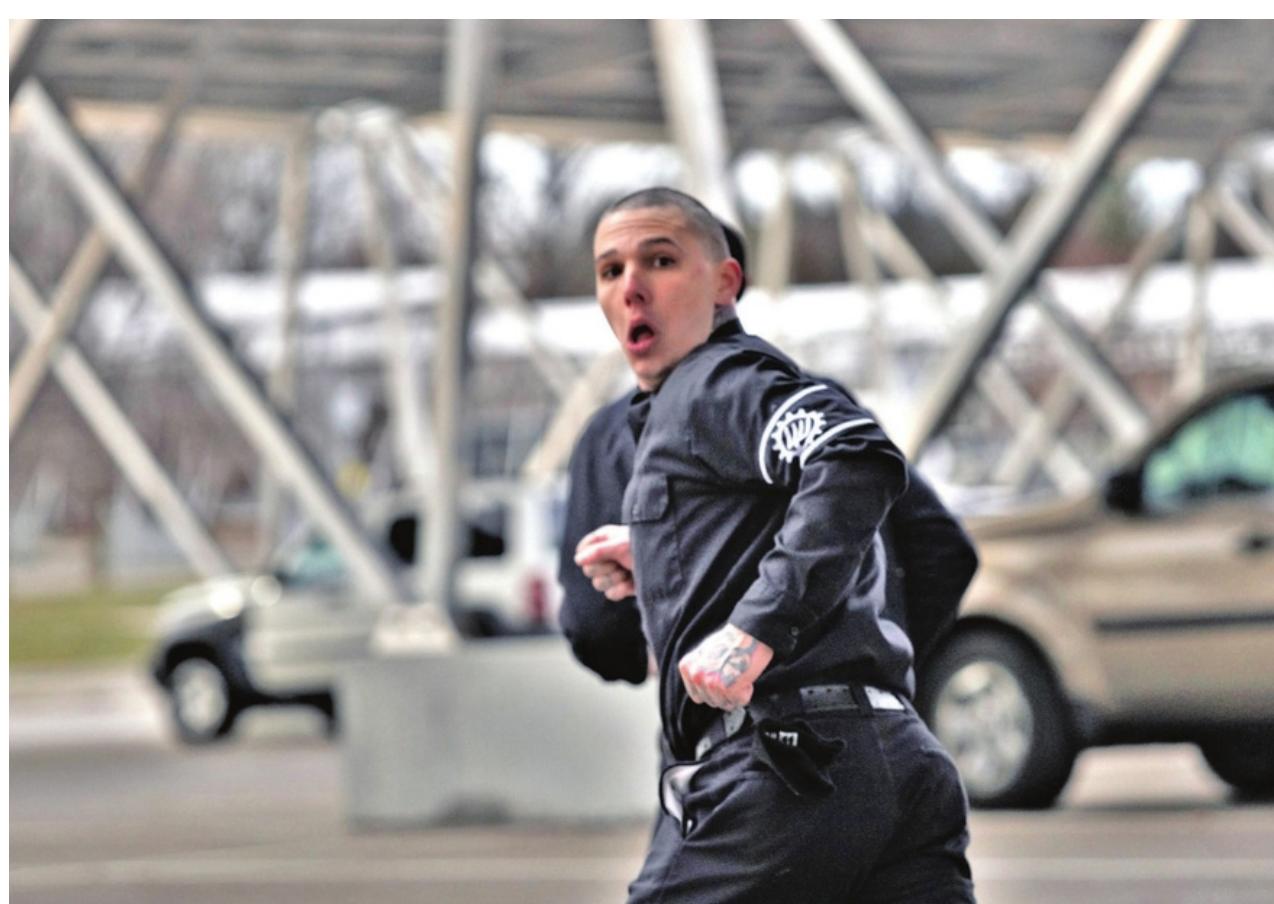
We view March 5th as one day (albeit an important day), in a series of many days building towards this world. Therefore, we claim this victory not just as a coalition but as one single part of a larger community and a larger movement that is united to resist fascist attacks.

So we should celebrate this victory. But of course the struggle against white supremacy is far from over. While this was a major win, as long as the Alt-Right and other white supremacist movements and institutions exist they will continue attempting to organize and attack us. The racist attacks of the state continue: I.C.E. raids kidnap our friends and neighbors, killer cops murder black youth with impunity, and the archipelago of the prison system cages and tortures millions of the working class, especially black and brown people.

As far as the Alt-Right, Spencer himself told the Washington Post recently that he will still attempt to visit college campuses – but this time, without publicizing his events in advance. Also, with their movements forced underground, frustrated fascists might switch to violent and dangerous “lone wolf” tactics. We need to be on the lookout for changes in their strategy to be able to adapt our own methods and counter them effectively. That said, we have already seen that we can effectively out-organize the Alt-Right, and we WILL do it again, no matter how their strategy changes!

We also want to address the portrayal of violence on March 5th. Some local and national news agencies have published articles that focus almost exclusively on the subject of violence at the protest. Because of this, we have run into objections to the M5 blockade from our co-workers, family, friends, and of course social media commentators. This narrative is being used to argue that anti-fascists are destructive proponents of unnecessary violence.

CONTINUED ON PG 3





FUCK THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HERE'S THE REAL RESISTANCE:

"THE GREAT MARCH OF RETURN": PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AGAINST ISRAELI OCCUPATION

THE GAZA STRIP, Palestine

On March 30th, Palestinian Land Day, tens of thousands of Palestinians began mobilizing for the Great March of Return protests near the Israeli border in the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the protests, Israeli soldiers have murdered 27 people and injured hundreds with live fire, rubber bullets, and teargas. 19 of the victims were murdered on the first day of the protests. Despite the danger posed by the occupying force, the protests have remained strong and will continue until May 15th, Nakba Day, as planned. Demonstrations have erupted around the world in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On April 11, two dozen folks met at the Rock on Michigan State's campus to honor the Palestinian protesters murdered by the Israeli military during the Land Day protests on the Gaza Border. The names of the victims of were read out loud and the Rock was painted to resemble the flag of Palestine. The commemoration was organized by Students for Justice in Palestine

OKLAHOMA TEACHERS REBEL AGAINST AUSTERITY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Oklahoma teachers went out on strike demanding better compensation and more funding for schools in early April. The strike has been accompanied by massive demonstrations and has already achieved pay raises. The teachers, however, have not been pacified, and have extended the strike to demand that more resources be allocated toward schools. West Virginia teachers went on strike for 9 days earlier this year, achieving a 5% raise; Kentucky and Arizona teachers both are on the verge of striking in the near future.

MSU STUDENTS AND WORKERS CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE AGAINST ABUSE AND CORRUPTION

EAST LANSING, MI

The crisis at MSU deepens: Interim president Engler bribes a Nassar victim, former dean of osteopathic medicine was arrested for sexually harassing students, graduate students discrimination grievances are being swept under the rug, MSU counselors are telling students not to report rape, the list goes on. Students and workers are organizing, disrupting Board of Trustees meetings, and building power in order to challenge the administration of the university.

UPRISING OVER RACIST MURDER OF STEPHON CLARK BY THE POLICE

SACRAMENTO, CA

On March 22nd, Black Lives Matter shut down interstate 5 as part of a series of demonstrations in response to the murder of Stephon Clark by the Sacramento Police Department. Clark, a 22 year old father of two, was executed by police on March 18th in the backyard of his grandmother's house, where Clark had been living. Clark was unarmed. The popular mobilization that shut down of the highway led to the delay of a Sacramento King's game. A week later, players for both the Kings and the Celtics wore shirts showing solidarity with Stephon Clark and the uprisings.

FLINT COMMUNITY DISRUPTS MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

LANSING, MI

As the state of Michigan navigates the wakes of scandals, corroded pipelines, and impending oil spills, Nestle has been given permission to suck more out of the Great Lakes for extreme profits while Snyder has cut off bottled water supplies to residents of Flint who've been paying for poisoned water for years. The State never fails to deny marginalized folks even the most ironic and superficial attention, and this came to life on Wednesday as Flint residents disrupted the capital building in Lansing. While representatives were in session, plastic bottles crumpled and voices chanted outrage from the pews above; about half of the elected officials walked out as police physically removed non-violent demonstrators.

POP-UP ANARCHIST SOCIAL CENTER

ANN ARBOR, MI

Every Monday between 3 and 6 pm a pop-up anarchist social center runs at the new Common Space at the Canterbury House. You'll find free coffee/tea along with zines, stickers, and other literature for share or by donation -- and maybe other surprises in the near future, such as mini-workshops and skill shares. And you're welcome to bring your zines, patches, and other rebel words/art to share. There will be both "ask an anarchist" question sessions, for those newer to do-it-ourselves forms of ethics and organizing, and/or finding like-minded others to socialize with. Spend time chatting together about mutual aid and other fun topics, or educate yourself for freedom by reading or writing at one of the study tables.

FASCISTS AND RACISTS LOSE AT MSU, CONT

While we believe that there is so much more to antifascist organizing than punching Nazis, we maintain that all of the actions taken on March 5th were acts of community self-defense. The Nazis preach and incite genocide and hate crimes and their movements are damaging, hateful, and incredibly threatening to the people they target. White supremacists and the Alt-Right murdered 22 people last year. Their movements are more violent than a few punches could ever be.

In the face of this violence, it is important that as we build our movement we are careful to not condemn the actions

fascists- they love violence. They thrive on it, they seek it out, they want a world held together by violence. So for us, it is important to do two things: not condemn the actions of our fellow anti-fascists AND build a movement that doesn't love violence for violence's sake. On March 5th we intentionally did not put forth our own solutions or tactics to resisting Spencer's speech beyond a call for "mass community antifascism". And we stand in complete solidarity with all protesters who united to protect our community from the fascists.

As we both celebrate this victory and continue the fight, we encourage

While this was a major win, as long as the Alt-Right and other white supremacist movements and institutions exist they will continue attempting to organize and attack us.

of others, even if they are actions that we would not take ourselves.

At the same time, we think it is important that we build a movement that doesn't love violence. The nazis and the

all of the new anti-fascists who showed up on March 5th to get involved in local projects and organizations that struggle against white supremacy and all forms of oppression and domination. There are too

many of these to count, which is great, but it is also important to be mindful when reaching out to new groups. If you are looking to get involved in a new organization, do a little research before hand. What does a group say about itself? What do people critical of the group say about them? What are the group's values and how do they align with your values?

On Monday March 5th, we struck an important blow to the Alt-Right movement, a movement that dreams of genocide and racist violence. In doing so,



we strengthened our relationships with old friends, made new relationships with new friends, and learned a little bit about what we can collectively accomplish when we love and support each other in the street. And the bonds and relationships we built that day will be carried forward into the next struggle. We literally chased Richard Spencer and his supporters out of Lansing. Our movement won the day on March 5th. Let's keep organizing: tomorrow we can win some more.

MARCH 5TH ANTIFASCIST BAIL FUND

There were 24 people arrested on March 5th. The joint legal defense has 12 people with misdemeanor charges and 7 people with felony charges (some with multiple).

These cases have disrupted the lives of the M5 defendants, who have feared losing jobs, incurred legal expenses, and been forced to make repeated trips or relocate to Lansing.

In light of these circumstances, there has been steady solidarity and support for people facing charges. The defendants are working together with the National Lawyers Guild to create a joint legal defense built on solidarity and mutual aid. Financial support to the defendants is critical and we appreciate any support you're able to provide.

Funds will be used for legal defense and to support defendants during trial, funding housing, travel expenses, food, and other support needs as agreed on by the defendants.

Visit www.fundedjustice.com/stospencermsu to make a donation today!



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FROM STUDENT WALKOUTS TO REVOLUTION

By A, from First of May Anarchist Alliance - Michigan Collective

Over one million high school students walked out of class on Wednesday, March 14th 2018 in what was the biggest school walk out protests since the Vietnam War. These students have been raised with school shootings being a norm. They, as I did just a couple of years ago, are growing up going to school in the age of snapchat and the alt-right.

As they march out of class and into the streets, they defy the police and the school administrations. They defy the whole damn system. They defy the police who confronted them in the streets with the very weapons that are used against them in school shootings. The police who have shot down their brothers and sisters with impunity in and out of school. The police who waited outside while a white supremacist shot up a Florida school.

They defy the administration that covered up sexual assault and molestation for decades at Michigan State University. The administrations who called for lockdown drills at schools to keep students from protesting/are now threatening detention and suspension in retaliation - this happened in Lansing, Battle Creek, and across the country.

The same administrations who do not stand up against cuts to financial support for poor students. The same administrations who threaten to expel Black student athletes for kneeling during the anthem at sporting events. The same administrations that have allowed overt white supremacists to speak on campuses to further their quest to remove marginalized people from the Earth.

Let's not mince words, these are racist and sexist attacks. The attacks on young people are almost always by violent, young, white men who feel as though the system is failing them. They are being pushed aside as they continue to matter less and less to the billionaires and corporations who have left them and their families behind for cheap labor elsewhere.

Anti-racist, anti-patriarchal, and anti-colonialist social struggles continue to move forward and prosper in the face of extreme state repression, a growing far-right, mainstream disapproval, and cold blooded murder. Because of all this, these white men feel as though they are losing their dominance in amerikkkan society (they are, and that is a good thing). So, what better way to reassert your "dominance" than by holding hundreds of helpless people's lives in your hands? This is delusional, but so is white power. The attacks usually (obviously) target women and people of color. They cut across communities and happen inside and out of school.

Outside of school shootings, the violence these young people face and are opposing is sometimes quick street violence, and sometimes is long term systemic violence (See the end of the third paragraph). Furthermore, if we are to stand with these students who are marching now, and if we are to mean it, we must also stand with the young people who have been protesting for years against racist violence as Black Lives Matter. We seek to further and empower the perspectives and goals of these long-time student organizers who have been spit on for years by the same white liberals who now fully "support" this wave of student resistance.

We, young and old, straight up need to work alongside these brave young people toward building a movement geared toward social revolution and the destruction of patriarchy and white supremacy and the state; one that is strong enough to defend ourselves and our communities. We for real need to watch out

and communicate. We as communities should have the power to say that the kid who is posting violent snapchats doesn't get to have access to firearms.

The people capable of creating a social, cultural pivot are these young people who are already determining, through their everyday actions and communication, what the future will hold. They want accountability, they want safety, they want the right to live and love without fear. They embrace technology and new ideas. The democratic party and non-profits will try to co-opt this into a movement with its eyes set on reform, but young people know this does not work. They've learned from history.

The government, the police, and the administrations are not going to protect us or do this for us; in fact they operate on the same principles that create school shooters. School shooters are trying to recreate this power. When we talk about a school shooting, we need to understand it as an expression of a whole sociality. If we

truly want children to be safe in schools, we need deep social transformation -- not piecemeal solutions that are themselves expressions of the same oppressive sociality.

This is not a fight against guns, this is a fight against the system and its violence. This is a fight for a better world.

"We have chosen each other
and the edge of each others battles
the war is the same
if we lose
someday women's blood will congeal
upon a dead planet
if we win
there is no telling
we seek beyond history
for a new and more possible meeting."
- Audre Lorde

WE DON'T NEED GUN CONTROL



WE NEED TO
TAKE CONTROL